

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cellulosic polymer suspension comprising a cellulosic polymer  
5 suspended in a solution, the solution containing from about 40 to about 75 weight percent  
of an alkali formate, wherein the true crystallization temperature (TCT), API 13 J, of the  
alkali formate solution is less than or equal to 18° F.
2. The polymer suspension of Claim 1, wherein the cellulosic polymer is  
10 anionic or non-ionic.
3. The polymer suspension of Claim 2, wherein the cellulosic polymer is  
carboxymethylhydroxyethyl cellulose.
- 15 4. The polymer suspension of Claim 1, wherein the alkali formate is  
potassium formate, cesium formate, or a mixture thereof.
5. The polymer suspension of Claim 2, wherein the cellulosic polymer is  
hydroxyethyl cellulose.  
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6. The polymer suspension of Claim 1, wherein the TCT is less than or equal  
to 0° F.
7. A cellulosic polymer suspension comprising a cellulosic polymer  
25 suspended at 70° F in 40% or more based on total weight of water and salt of alkali  
formate dissolved in water, wherein the alkali formate is potassium formate or cesium  
formate or a mixture thereof.
8. The suspension of Claim 7, wherein the cellulosic polymer is selected  
30 from the group consisting of anionic or nonionic modified cellulose.

9. The suspension of Claim 8, wherein the nonionic modified cellulose is hydroxyethylcellulose.

5 10. The suspension of Claim 8, where the anionic modified cellulose is carboxymethyl hydroxyethylcellulose.

11. The suspension of Claim 7 where the hydroxyethylcellulose is crosslinked with glyoxal.

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12. A cellulosic polymer suspension comprising a cellulosic polymer suspended at 70° F in between from about 40% to about 75% alkali formate, wherein no more than 25% of the alkali formate is sodium formate, the remainder being potassium formate, cesium formate, or a mixture thereof.

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13. The suspension of Claim 12, wherein the true crystallization temperature (TCT), API 13J, of the alkali formate solution is less than or equal to 20°F.

14. The suspension of Claim 12, where the cellulosic polymer is selected from  
20 the group consisting of anionic or nonionic modified cellulose.

15. The suspension of Claim 12, where the nonionic modified cellulose is hydroxyethylcellulose.

25 16. The suspension of Claim 12, where the anionic modified cellulose is carboxymethyl hydroxyethylcellulose.

17. The suspension of Claim 12, where the hydroxyethylcellulose is crosslinked with glyoxal.

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18. A method for thickening a brine during the recovery of oil and/or gas from a subterranean formation which comprises introducing into the formation the cellulosic polymer suspension of Claim 1.

5 19. A method for thickening a brine during the recovery of oil and/or gas from a subterranean formation which comprises introducing into the formation the cellulosic polymer suspension of Claim 7.

20. A method for thickening a brine during the recovery of oil and/or gas from  
10 a subterranean formation which comprises introducing into the formation the cellulosic polymer suspension of Claim 12.

21. The method of Claim 18, wherein the brine has a density greater than or  
equal to 11.6 ppg at 70°F.

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